

6-48
Memorandum3/6/80
UNCLASSIFIED**BO 004**TO : The Ambassador
Through: DCM/Maxwell Chaplin

DATE: 6 March 1980

FROM : RSO/James J. Blystone, American Embassy, Buenos Aires *JB* *R*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Argentine Intelligence Officials

On March 4, 1980, the RSO met with members of the Argentine intelligence service. The RSO discussed the report by Amnesty International entitled "Testimony on Secret Detention Camps in Argentina". RSO's sources reviewed the publication and in the strictest of confidence advised the RSO that the Amnesty International report was true. Sources advised that the two Argentines who wrote the report, Mr. Oscar Alfredo Gonzalez and Horacio Guillermo Cid de la Paz, who were held for 15 months, would have the knowledge to write such a report. Sources advised the RSO that these two gentlemen did escape from Argentine authorities while enroute to another location in La Plata. This information was given to the Ambassador and Mr. Chaplin.

On another subject, sources advised that in late December or early January 1980, Rodolfo Gabriel Galimberti, First Secretary of the Montonero movement, split away from Mario Eduardo Firmenich, Secretary General of the Montonero movement. Sources stated the split developed because Galemberti wanted the Montonero movement to follow political lines to achieve their goals, whereas Firmenich's policy was to achieve the same goals by military action.

Regarding the U.S. grain embargo against the Soviet Union, sources stated that they had heard that while the Soviet delegation was in Argentina they advised the Argentine government that if the Argentines did not sell grain to the Soviet Union they would remove their technical advisors and terminate their assistance and equipment which they are now providing to the Salta Grande Hydroelectric Dam Project and that money had changed hands.

Regarding terrorist acts committed by the TEI forces of the Montoneros, sources advised that they do not believe any future attacks will occur for the following reasons: 1) they were able to obtain information from the survivors of the

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

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2.

Soldatti attack which enabled them to apprehend numerous Montoneros; 2) due to the successful apprehension of the terrorists involved in the Soldatti attack the Montonero movement has been demoralized; 3) the findings and confiscation of large quantities of arms and equipment stored in warehouses has greatly hurt and further demoralized the Montonero movement and lastly 4) Raul Yager, the commander of the TEI forces has departed Argentina and was tracked to Cuba.

cc: POL/R
Pol
DAO

RSO/JJBlystone:scg

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